

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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R 161758Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7285

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL OPORTO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, ELAB, GW, PO, SP

SUBJECT: PROPOSAL FOR LABOR LEADER TRAINING PROGRAM IN
PORTUGAL

REF: (A) BONN 02198; (B) LISBON 964; (C) LISBON 400

1. SUMMARY: RECENT MEETINGS IN PARIS BETWEEN PORTU-
GUESE LABOR MINISTER TOMAS ROSA AND AFL-CIO EUROPEAN
REPRESENTATIVE IRVING BROWN MAY INDICATE NEW PORTUGUESE
INTEREST IN US PARTICIPATION IN LABOR LEADER TRAINING
PROGRAMS. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING CONVERSATION WITH EMBASSY LABOR ATTACHE,
IRVING BROWN INDICATED THAT HE HAD MET WITH PORTUGUESE
LABOR MINISTER TOMAS ROSA IN PARIS DURING THE RECENT
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OECD MEETING. BROWN COMMENTED THAT ROSA

WAS VERY FRIENDLY AND OPEN ABOUT DISCUSSING THE COMMUNIST THREAT IN PORTUGAL AND ABOUT HIS DESIRE TO DEVELOP COOPERATION WITH THE AFL-CIO. DURING THIS CONVERSATION, ROSA INVITED THE AFL-CIO TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO PORTUGAL TO OBSERVE THE SITUATION AND TALKED ABOUT SECURING AFL-CIO ASSISTANCE IN TRAINING PORTUGUESE LABOR LEADERS IN THE US. BROWN SAID HE EXPLAINED THE TRAINING PROGRAMS AND FACILITIES OF AFL-CIO SPONSORED INSTITUTES IN THE US WHICH HAVE MANY SUCH LABOR LEADER TRAINING PROGRAMS INCLUDING COURSES HELD IN THE PORTUGUESE LANGUAGE ARRANGED FOR BRAZILIAN LABOR LEADERS AND THAT THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE AFL-CIO INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT, MICHAEL BOGGS, ALSO SPEAKS FLUENT PORTUGUESE. ROSA SAID THAT HE WOULD WELCOME A VISIT BY BOGGS AND BROWN. WHEN BROWN RAISED THE QUESTION WHETHER IT WAS TOO EARLY FOR PORTUGUESE LABOR LEADERS TO WORK SUCCESSFULLY WITH US LABOR ORGANIZATIONS, ROSA REPLIED THAT THERE MAY BE SOME PROBLEMS BUT THAT THESE PROBLEMS COULD BE RESOLVED IF HANDLED PROPERLY AND THAT HE DEFINITELY FAVORED DEVELOPING SUCH A RELATIONSHIP NOW.

3. COMMENT: THE ABOVE DEVELOPMENT MAY BE OF INTEREST TO EMBASSY LISBON SINCE APPARENTLY THE ABOVE ROSA CONVERSATION WITH BROWN MAY INDICATE A CHANGE IN MINISTER ROSA'S PREVIOUS ATTITUDE (REF B) ON THE TIMING OF COOPERATION BETWEEN US LABOR ORGANIZATIONS WITH THEIR COUNTERPARTS IN PORTUGAL.
HILLENBRAND

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